

BREAK THE NEWS TO MOTHER

by Chas. K. Harris —

This song was originally published in 1897 during the Spanish American War, when it was virtually taken up and sung by the entire nation.

The Author and Composer Mr Chas. K. Harris who is also the Author of the world's famous song "After The Ball", since the outbreak of the present war, has been besieged by requests for copies of this one-time famous song, the human heart-appeal of which has kept it alive for these many years.

In response to this appeal he has issued this new edition.

The song remains unchanged with the exception of the title page and will undoubtedly take its place as an immortal classic with such songs as "Home Sweet Home" and "The Vacant Chair."



Break The News To Mother.

Words and Music by
CHAS. K. HARRIS.

Andante.

Piano. *mf*

p

While the shot and shell were scream - ing up - on the bat - tle field The
From a - far a not - ed Gen - 'ral had wit - nessed this brave deed, "Who

p

boys in blue were fight - ing their no - ble flag to shield. Came a
saved our flag? speak up lads, 'Twas no - ble, brave in - deed?' "There he

cry from their brave Cap - tain "Look boys! our flag is down; Who'll vol - un - teer to save it from dis -
lies, Sir" said the Cap - tain, "He's sink - ing ver - y fast," Then slow - ly turned a - way to hide a

grace?" — "I will," a young voice shout - ed, "I'll bring it back or die," Then
tear. — The Gen - ral in a mo - ment, Knelt down be - side the boy, Then

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction in a minor key (three flats) and 2/4 time, marked 'Andante.' The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, which is in a soprano or alto range. The score is divided into systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics tell a story of a general witnessing a battle, a boy saving a flag, and the general's emotional reaction.

sprang in-to the thick-est of the fray; ——— Saved the flag but gave his young life All
gave a cry that touched all hearts that day; ——— "It's my son, my brave young he-ro, I

for his coun-try's sake, They brought him back and soft-ly heard him say, ———
thought you safe at home," "For-give me, Fa-ther for I ran a-way." ———

Chorus.

"Just break the news to moth-er, She knows how dear I love her And

tell her not to wait for me For I'm not com-ing home; Just say there is no oth-er Can

take the place of moth-er, Then kiss her dear, sweet lips for me And break the news to her?"